(b) if so, what are the details of the fields in which they have been identified; and

(c) what is the total aid likely to be provided by the Soviet Union in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) As on date, four Indo-Soviet joint venture proposals have bene approved by the Government of India out of which two are in India and two in the territory of the USSR. The Joint ventures approved in the Indian territory are in the fields of freight forwarding and marketing of Soviet technology and in the Soviet territory are in the field of restaurants. Apart from the above, a number of joint venture proposals in various fields such as chemicals, textiles, Jute, leather, agro-processing, forest-based products, electronics, etc. are in various stages of negotiation between the concerned Indian and Soviet organisations. The joint venture proposals are on the basis of contribution in the form of equity and they do not involve Soviet aid. Apart from there joint venture proposals a number of proposals improving transfer of technology and co-production between the concerned organisations of the two countries are also being negotiated.

Strategy to solve banance of payments problem

460. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are finalising a strategy to solve the balance of payments problem without taking fresh loan from the IMF;

(b) if so, what are the details of the strategy that is being considered;

(c) whether Government have decided not to go in for fresh IMF loans; and

(d) what were the decisions arrived at during the meeting of the World Bank and the IMF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Action Plan drawn up by Government for strengthening the Balance of Payments position, aims at measures to step up exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange earnings through investments and remittances including tourism receipts.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under Government's consideartion for seeking a fresh loan from the IMF.

Consultancy Export

461. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consultancy exports have not reached the desired level because the recommendations of the Technology Policy Implementation Committee have not been put to use;

(b) whether the Committee had recommended a couple of years back several concessions for consultancy exporters;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) by what time the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir. Foreign exchange earnings on account of consultancy export have shown an increasing trend over the last few years.

(b) to (d) The Technology Policy Implementation Committee made the following three major recommendations in regard to the consultancy sector:

(i) Creation of Consultancy Reserve Fund.

(ii) Exemption of 100 per cent of export income from the purview of Income Tax.

(iii) Establishment of an Indian Consultancy Centre.

Recommendation at (i) is being pursued by the Department of Science and Technology. As regards recommendation at S. No. (ii) Government has already allowed 50 per cent exemption of Income-Tax on export income. As regards recommendation at S. No. (iii), a Consultancy Development Centre has been created with the support from Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

International Seminar on food held in Bangladesh

462. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Seminar on "Floods—Regional and Global Environmental Perspectives" was held in Bangladesh on 4th March, 1989;

(b) whether 15 countries participated in the Seminar; and

(c) if so, what were the main decisions arrived thereat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Over 20 countries are reported to have participated in the International Seminar at Dhaka on 4th March, 1989. The recommendations include conducting studies at regional and global levels to take care of floods and establishment of an International Institute of Environmental Studies at Dhaka.

Indian currency received at Patna airport

463. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian currency received at Patna airport from Nepal was returned back; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) On the 27th March, 1989, one Royal Nepal Airlines chartered plane arrived at Patna airport with some Indian currency from the Nepal Rashtriya Bank for remittance to the Reserve Bank of India, Patna. The documents presented for customs clearance at Patna airport were examined by the customs authorities in consultation with the officials of the Reserve Bank of India, Patna, in the context of the expiry of the Indo-Nepal Treaties of Trade and Transit on the 23rd March, 89. Meanwhile, the Royal Nepal Airlines plane flew back to Kathmandu. The plane later arrived on 6th April, 89, with the currency notes and the same were allowed clearance through customs at Patna airport.

International spices fair held at Cochin

464. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Spices Fair was held recently at Cochin;

(b) if so, the salient features of the conclusion arrived at the fair; and

(c) the number of contracts signed by Indian trading community with the foreign buyers and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned from these deals?